

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for translating IP addresses within control protocol messages, said control protocol messages originating and terminating in different IP networks, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a control protocol message from a node on a first IP network;

means for translating an IP address within said control protocol message from the IP address associated with the first IP network to an IP address associated with a second IP network, said means for translating an IP address within said control protocol message being positioned in a device within said first IP network; and

means for routing the control protocol message to a node on said second IP network.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said translation is Network Address Translation (NAT).

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the node on said first IP network is a media gateway and the node on said second IP network is a media gateway controller.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said control protocol is MEGACO.

5. (Original) A firewall apparatus for translating IP address within control protocol messages exchanged between a media gateway on a first IP network and a media gateway controller on a second IP network, said firewall apparatus comprising:

a port having an IP address associated with said first IP network, said port for receiving a control protocol message from the media gateway intended for the media gateway controller, said control protocol message including an IP address associated with said second IP network;

a Network Address Translator for translating the IP address associated with said second IP network included within said control protocol message to an IP address associated with said first IP network; and

a routing component for routing the control protocol message to the media gateway controller.

6. (Original) The firewall apparatus of claim 5 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of translating IP addresses within control protocol messages exchanged between a node on a first IP network and a node on a second IP network, said method comprising:

receiving a control protocol message from a node on said second IP network, said control protocol message including an IP address associated with said second IP network;

translating the IP address associated with said second IP network included within said control protocol message to an IP address associated with said first IP network, wherein said translating occurs at a device within said first IP network;

routing the control protocol message to a node on said first IP network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for translating IP addresses within control protocol messages exchanged between a node on a first IP network and a node on a second IP network, the computer program product having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program product comprising:

computer program code for receiving a control protocol message from a node on said second IP network, said control protocol message including an IP address associated with said second IP network;

computer program code for translating the IP address associated with said second IP network included within said control protocol message to an IP address associated with said first IP network, wherein said translating occurs at a device within said first IP network;

computer program code for routing the control protocol message to a node on said first IP network.

10. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.


11. (Currently Amended) A system for translating IP addresses within control protocol messages, said control protocol messages originating and terminating in different IP networks, said system comprising:

a firewall for:

receiving messages from a node on a first IP network;  
offloading control protocol messages to a server; and  
routing messages to a node on a second IP network, and

a server positioned within the first IP network behind the firewall for:

receiving control protocol messages from said firewall;  
translating IP addresses within said control protocol messages from IP addresses associated with the first IP network to IP addresses associated with the second IP network; and  
returning the translated control protocol messages to said firewall.

 12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of translating IP addresses within control protocol messages exchanged between a node on a first IP network and a node on a second IP network comprising:

having a firewall on a first IP network receive a control protocol message from a node on a second IP network;

having the firewall offload the received control protocol message to a server positioned within the first IP network and behind the firewall;

having said server translate IP addresses within said control protocol message from an IP address associated with the second IP network to an IP address associated with the first IP network; and

having said server route the translated control protocol message to a node on said first IP network.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for translating IP addresses within control protocol messages exchanged between a node on a first IP network and a node on a second IP network, the computer program product having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program product comprising:

computer program code for having a firewall on a first IP network receive a control protocol message from a node on a second IP network;

computer program code for having the firewall offload the received control protocol message to a server positioned within the first IP network and behind the firewall;

computer program code for having said server translate IP addresses within said control protocol message from an IP address associated with the second IP network to an IP address associated with the first IP network; and

computer program code for having said server route the translated control protocol message to a node on said first IP network.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15 wherein the control protocol is MEGACO.

17. (Previously Presented) The firewall apparatus of claim 5 wherein said port is adapted to listen for a Service Change message to determine that a new media gateway is becoming available.

18. (Previously Presented) The firewall apparatus of claim 17 wherein said network address translator is adapted to place an IP address of the new media gateway in a NAT table of IP addresses.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said device within said first IP network is selected from the group consisting of: a firewall for the first IP network, a router for the first IP network, and a server positioned within the first IP network behind a firewall.

20. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein said translating occurs at a device within said first IP network comprises translating in a device selected from the group consisting of: a firewall for the

first IP network, a router for the first IP network, and a server positioned behind a firewall for the first IP network.

21. (New) The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said computer program code for translating functions on a device selected from the group consisting of: a firewall for the first IP network, a router for the first IP network, and a server positioned behind a firewall for the first IP network.